

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 11038719  
PUBLICATION DATE : 12-02-99

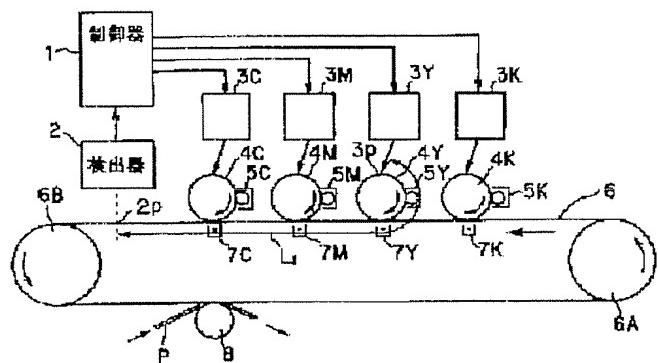
APPLICATION DATE : 17-07-97  
APPLICATION NUMBER : 09192941

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INT.CL. : G03G 15/01 G03G 15/01 G03G 15/01  
G03G 21/14 H04N 1/04 H04N 1/23

TITLE : COLOR IMAGE FORMING DEVICE



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To invariably keep the best color shear state and to reduce the toner consumption by taking the correcting action of the forming position of a latent image before the latent image corresponding to the next image area is formed in a second or subsequent image forming means from the upstream side based on the color drift quantity calculated from color drift measuring patterns.

SOLUTION: A controller 1 forms toner images of color drift measuring patterns in colors of K, Y, M, C on photoreceptor drums 4K, 4Y, 4M, 4C. A detector 2 detects the passing timings of the color drift measuring patterns transferred on an intermediate transfer belt 6. The controller 1 calculates the drift quantities of the colors Y, M, C against the reference color K, calculates the drifts of the main scanning direction margin, auxiliary scanning direction margin, and main scanning magnifying power, and calculates correction quantities for them. The setting of the main scanning direction margin and the auxiliary scanning direction margin is changed in sequence based on the correction quantity data in exposing devices 3Y, 3M, 3C.

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